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**Cummings, Matt**

**From:** Lovejoy, Tom A - DNR [Tom.Lovejoy@Wisconsin.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 08, 2009 12:46 PM  
**To:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
**Cc:** Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR; Rineer, Ken - PSC; Koslowsky, Shari - DNR; Kalvelage, Karen M - DNR; Siebert, David R - DNR; Fannucchi, William - PSC  
**Subject:** RE: Capx2020 Proposed Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission System Improvement Project

I forgot to fill-in the subject line. In case it wasn't clear e-mail below pertains to CapX2020 project

P Tom Lovejoy  
Natural Resources Program Manager  
Environmental Analysis  
West Central Region  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
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**From:** Lovejoy, Tom A - DNR  
**Sent:** Monday, June 08, 2009 11:14 AM  
**To:** 'stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov'  
**Cc:** Laatsch, Cheryl - DNR; Rineer, Ken - PSC; Koslowsky, Shari - DNR; Kalvelage, Karen M - DNR; Siebert, David R - DNR; Fannucchi, William - PSC  
**Subject:**

[<mailto:shari.koslowsky@wisconsin.gov>](mailto:shari.koslowsky@wisconsin.gov)

This follows our discussion this morning about RUS's invitation to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to attend upcoming agency and public scoping meetings as part of RUS's lead federal agency role for EIS development/NEPA compliance for this project.

As you know WDNR and Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) will jointly be involved in a separate environmental review (EIS) process consistent with state regulations, including Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA). It's not exactly clear to me if or how the separate NEPA and WEPA processes will be related but that's something for others to determine.

My main reasons for contacting you today are::

1. Let you know WDNR will attend RUS's June 23 agency scoping meeting. I'll be there and maybe one other. WDNR project manager is Cheryl Laatsch. She'll be on maternity leave for a few weeks, but her email address is listed above and her phone is (608) 264-8943. You should direct all communications through Cheryl. Other key members of WDNR's project review team will be Shari Koslowsky, Karen Kalvelage and me.

2. As we discussed today by phone, WDNR has had early project planning stage issue scoping discussions with CapX2020 utilities and PSC. In particular WDNR has identified two important areas of environmental concerns regarding possible project transmission line routing and substation expansion alternatives. Where the proposed transmission line may cross the Mississippi River and extend into Wisconsin would have a direct bearing on potential for impacts to:

-La Crosse Marsh (site of a Dairyland Power Cooperative existing substation)

-Van Loon State Wildlife Area (located in NW La Crosse County and potentially impacted by transmission line upgrades)

## S-011-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

S-011-001

**S-011-002**

WDNR recently sent utilities and PSC letters describing these properties and their outstanding resource and/or public interest values. We also included mention of potential regulatory concerns. And we made recommendations to modify project alternatives now, early during project planning, in effort not only to avoid impacts to these sensitive areas but also to prevent potential regulatory conflicts later. I've attached copies of the letters sent. WDNR would appreciate your consideration of points made as part of RUS's NEPA issue scoping process.

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**S-011-002**

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response S-011-001.